

Monthly Meeting
Friday June 20, 2014

7:30pm

Our Saviors Lutheran Church
1035 Carol Lane Lafayette
6pm License Testing

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This Month's Meeting Program:

ARRL Field Day and Radio Contesting

This month's speaker is Ben Heathorn, KI6WBH, a long haul contester. Ben spent the last two Field Days behind the microphone for more than 20 hours each. Ben will speak on the history of contesting and Field Day and he will also show some helpful programs and applications.



SPECIAL EVENT
RCA Receiving Station
17400 Sir Francis Drake Blvd
Point Reyes National Seashore
July 12, 2014 Doors Open at 3pm



Commemorating the end of CW operation on the HF maritime radio bands on July 12, 1999. First transmission from the former RCA receiving station at 5:01pm PDT. K6KPH ops will monitor the frequencies below as propagation and the number of available operators permit.

<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Transmitter</u>	<u>Antenna</u>
3550.0	Henry HF-5000D	Double Extended Zepp
7050.0	RCA L Set	Double Extended Zepp
14050.0	Henry HF-5000D	H over 2
18097.5	Henry HF-5000D	H over 2
21050.0	Henry HF-5000D	H over 2

Reception reports and verification requests for the MRHS stations listed above may be sent to:

Maritime Radio Historical Society
P.O. Box 392
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Commercial stations KPH, KFS, KLB and WLO will be on the air along with US Coast Guard stations NMC (Point Reyes, CA) and NMW (Astoria, OR)

More Information at <http://www.radiomarine.org> .

ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO
JOIN THE CLUB YAHOO GROUP.
DOWNLOAD FILES, INCLUDING
THE CARRIER IN **FULL COLOR** AS
WELL AS SHARE INFORMATION

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mdarc>

Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club W6CX
P.O. Box 23222 Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
(925) 288-1730

The Carrier is a monthly publication of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC). It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to MDARC members, and provided space is available.

President - Jim Siemons, AF6PU
Vice President - David Schild, KK6CQX
Secretary - David Molstad, KK6GSC
Treasurer - Bill Swindell, K1LED
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Directors At Large
Trevor Hall, WA6JAU Mitchell Boyce, W8DOD
Janice Fujii, KG6VTD Ray Gaschk, AG6SI

Emergency Coordinator - Ron Bunch, W4FEK

PACIFICON 2014

Chair: Trevor Hall, WA6JAU
Vice Chair: Dave Gordon, N6SWE
Registration: Misa Siemons, KJ6BUE
Treasurer: Mike Patterson, N6JGA
Secretary: Pete Harris, KE6ZIW
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Education & Training Chair - John Primus, AF6RJ
Youth Education - Steve Rogge, K6XZ
License Testing - Larry Loomer, KI6LNB
Public Service - Pete Harris, KE6ZIW
Field Day Chairs - Lauren Styles, WA6CIE and
Elizabeth Styles, KG6HLV
Refreshments: Elizabeth Styles KG6HLV
Holiday Party - Misa Siemons KJ6BUE
Annual Picnic - Lauren Styles, WA6CIE
Trailer - Patrick Miller, KK6DBX

The Carrier Newsletter
Editor, Matthew G. Vurek, N4DLA
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Digital Media - David Molstad KK6GSC

Amateur Television Help and Information:
John Schuler, W6DTV JOHNQRZ@aol.com

MDARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date May 5, 2014

Time 1900 Hours

Presided over by Jim Siemons AF6PU Board President

Recorded by David Molstad KK6GSC Secretary
Minutes recorded in accordance with Robert's Rules of order, Fourth Edition.

The meeting was held at the at Black Bear Diner 700 Bancroft Rd
Walnut Creek California

Call or order 1900 Hours

Opening Comments President Comments

Welcome Introduced Mike Patterson, N6JGA Treasurer of NARCC

Roll Call (of all attendees)

Club Officers

Title	Name	Call Sign
President	Jim Siemons,	AF6PU
Vice President	David Schild	KK6CQX
Secretary	David Molstad	KK6GSC
Director at Large	Ray Gaschk	AG6SI
Director at Large	Janice Fujii	KG6VTD
Director at Large	Trevor Hall	WA6JAU

Committee Chair	Name	Call Sign
Technical	Trevor Hall,	WA6JAU
Education Chair	John Primus	AF6RJ
Digital Media	David Molstad	KK6GSC
Member	Charles Henry	KG6PHZ
Member	Mike Patterson	N6JGA
Member	Ron Bunch	W4FEK
Member	Patrick Miller	KK6DBX

II. Approval of Minutes from last meeting – David Molstad KK6GSC

Comments

Corrections noted

Motion; "Approve Minutes as noted". Trevor Hall, WA6JAU

Second David Schild KK6CQX

Vote unanimous Against 0 Abstain 0

IV. Officers Reports

a) President – Jim Siemons AF6PU

Comments

Special thanks to Tom Deeble, KA6SIP and Jim Brunk, N6BHX for work on directory

Auction night resulted in \$979.30.

Tom Kramer WA6NYP Emergency Coordinator resigned

EC is a one year position, not a chair

Ron Bunch, W4FEK nominated to take over EC. Member in good standing, CERT, RACES.

Meeting Closed, Board Members only

Motion, Accept Nomination of Ron Bunch W4FEK as Emergency Coordinator

Mitchell B. Boyce W8DOD

Second Trevor Hall WA6JAU

Vote unanimous Against 0 Abstain 0

b) Vice President David Schild KK6CQX

Guest Speaker this month from SETI

Looking for more guest speakers

c) Secretary/Correspondence - David Molstad KK6GSC

Comments MDARC now only owner of Yahoo accounts

d) Action Report by Jim Siemons AF6PU

Sold 82 items. Good turn out

Suggestion on change of date of Action, to be considered next year

V. Committee Reports

a) Education and Training John Primus WA6JAU

Comments

General Class completed testing May 15, 2014

GOTA-HF class sessions 5/22 and 5/29

Extra Class License Course begins June 5, 2014

Current enrollment 36.

Extra Class Manual expired 6/30/12

Funding request for Discussion Leaders Manuals \$300 to follow

MDARC members encouraged to contact AF6RJ to be part of the volunteer instruction team

Elmer's always needed.

Motion by David Schild KK6CQX MDARC to pay 25% of repair cost for freezer at Salvation Army where classes are held.

Second Janice Fujji KG6VTD

Payment limited to \$600.

Vote unanimous Against 0 Abstain 0

David Schild to coordinate with Salvation Army.

c) Technical Committee Trevor Hall WA6JAU

Comments

Noise on 2 Meter Repeater, testing system to determine if there is an equipment problem or interference
Age of Repeater 15 years, not high end equipment
Began process of looking for replacement Repeater
Motorola XPR 3000 \$2499, 25 watts looks favorable
Good set up and repairable if needed. Current unit would be difficult to repair because of age.
Looking for comments regarding other manufacturers
Suggestion to look at discount for non profit clubs
\$3500 budgeted for North Peak has not been used.

Motion by Trevor Hall Approach Club Membership for approval to purchase \$3000 2 Meter Repeater.

Seconded David Schild KK6CQX

Look for contributions for Repeater Net users
Post donation requests on Web Site
\$1,000 donated to MDARC from LDS for Repeater improvements.
Recent failures show need for new equipment
Donations should be coded for Repeater Replacement
Current Repeater could be used as back up.

d) Emergency Communications Ron Bunch W4FEK

Comments

Bring Radio Club organization to County. 27 Groups
Effort to revitalize former organization
RACES/Group Coordinator looking at emergency band for county, currently 50 frequencies used in County

e) Field Day Jim Siemons AF6PU

Comments

Club Meeting at Church and at Field Day
License testing at Field Day

f) Public Service Jim Siemons AF6PU

Comments

Needs more volunteers

g) PACIFICON Trevor Hall WA6JAU

Comments Next meeting in one week Registration Page almost ready Vendor Web page needed. Pat Miller to set up page Antenna Forum being organized General organization underway Volunteers needed for all areas. AV costs breakdown complete Still inquiring about long term contract

VI New Business

Comments

Jim related story regarding WWII Ham helping with family communications, Ham was blind.

VII Meeting Adjourned

"Motion to adjourn" Trevor, Hall WA6JAU

Second David Schild, KK6CQX

Vote unanimous Against 0 Abstain 0

Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club
General Club Meeting
Meeting Minutes

Date May 16, 2014
Time 1930 PST

Presided over by David Molstad KK6GSC
Secretary

Recorded by Trevor Hall WA6JAU
Technical Committee Chair
Minutes recorded in accordance with Robert's Rules of order, Fourth Edition.

The meeting was held at the at Our Savior's Lutheran Church
1035 Carol Lane
Lafayette California

I. Call or order 1930 PST
II Pledge of Allegiance

President's opening comments Jim Siemens AF6PU
Not in attendance

a) Vice Presidents Report David Shields KK6CQX
Not in attendance

b) Treasurer Report Bill Swindell K1LED
Not in attendance

c) Technical Committee Trevor Hall WA6JAU
Motion by Trevor Hall WA6JAU Purchase a new 2 Meter Repeater, cost \$3000
Seconded by Bart Lee K6VK
The amended motion was; By Daniel J Combs KJ6WAF, Bryan Ford KI6GDC, Richard A Bjorndal KJ6RAB.
"Amend original motion to the higher priced repeater authorizing \$4900 for Motorola MTR 3000."
Seconded by Bart Lee K6VK .
Vote Unanimous

e) Education Committee John Primus AF6RJ
17 students Passed recently completed General Class course and test
Extra Class begins 1st week of June, 38 students enrolled.

- f) Chuck Graham KI6GDC
Auxiliary Courses planned
Morse code, June 4
Aviation Aug 6th
Echo Link Aug 13th
Digital Communication July 9th
VX 7 pending
Satellites pending
Salvation Army pending
Food handling pending
ICS Systems pending
Contact Chuck at KI6DCD@ARRL.net or Gmail
- g) Public Service Events Pete Harris KE6ZIW
New Event Walnut Festival Parade May 13th
- h) Test Results Larry Loomer KI6LNB

New Generals Liz Styles
3 New Generals
5 New Techs
2 new Extra (all three tests same night)
- i) PACIFICON Trevor Hall WA6JAU
- j) Field Day Lauren Styles WA6CIE
Heather Farm Park 11:00 AM Saturday to 11:00 AM Sunday
Friday Set up
Mt Diablo Site set up for same times.

Tom Deeble won pie

Motion to close session
Motion seconded and unanimously approved

Surprise Guests at Field Day

© 2014 by Matthew G. Vurek, N4DLA

When we last heard from Jon, WG4CZX, he had just eradicated a nasty HF QRN problem at his boathouse QTH. This time, Jon and three other amateur radio operators from Benjamin Cay decide to trek to a high hill within a state park on the mainland to set up for this year's Field Day. Jon found a clearing on a bluff which looked down on the coastal plain below. The bluff boasted tall pine trees which would be excellent for stringing dipole antennas and the ground surface could support the mast for the moxon antenna they planned to bring. The Park Service informed Jon that an overnight camping permit was not necessary for the bluff and the temporary installation of antennas did not violate park regulations. Jon knew the bluff would not qualify for "bonus points" since it was not really accessible to the public but he also didn't need the bother of non-ham visitors yanking on antenna cables, spilling their overpriced coffees on the radio transceivers or flaunting their smart phones. As the fourth full weekend in June approached, Jon and his three friends gathered their equipment together for what the mother superior of the national ham radio organization in the Nutmeg State called the "most popular amateur radio event in North America."

"This great spot you picked out, Jon!" exclaimed, Tyrone, WJ4ASU, as he pulled the easy-up tent out of his minivan. "The gravel road we drove on to get here is in better shape than a lot of the paved roads on the island."

"I hope it works out for us," Jon replied as he lit a cigarette and exhaled a cloud of smoke. "The weather's great too. It shouldn't take us too long to get set up. How is Montel doing with the dipole stringing?"

Jon and Tyrone looked towards the tall pine trees and saw Montel, WQ4GYG, aiming his self-engineered antenna launcher skyward. "Bonzai!" He screamed and fired the launcher, sending a bright yellow tennis ball airborne while its attached string trailed.

"Bull's-eye!" screamed Jamal, WG4DLA, who stood below the tree wearing his silver hard hat. "You must have got it at least 60 feet up." Jamal grabbed the swinging tennis ball as it dropped down from the tree while Montel guided the antenna wire upwards. Montel repeated his feat with another tree and the group's 75 meter and 40 meter inverted vees were ready.

"Geez, those two were quick," said Jon, "we haven't even set the tents up." Just then, he heard a motor rumbling in the woods and saw an aged green Toyota pick-up truck loaded with what appeared to be pipes and plastic water barrels emerge from gravel road in woods and pass the edge of the Field Day site before continuing down the road and out of view.

"Who were those guys?" Tyrone asked. "They look like they were hauling Field Day stuff. I saw the driver talking on a handheld radio, too, but it looked like it was one of those 'Family Radio Service' ones."

"Damn, I hope they aren't setting up a Field Day site," replied Jon. "If they are, it will be one helluva QRM battle. Did you see all the pipes in the back of that truck?"

"Sure did," answered Tyrone, "they must be putting up a real tall antenna. But we've got our portable moxon in our antenna arsenal." He gazed up at the antenna he just installed.

By the early afternoon, their Field Day set up was complete and they quickly began making QSOs. Jon was surprised when he made many 2 meter SSB QSOs, some as far as 75 miles away, by just manually aiming his homemade portable beam over the bluff with only 50 watts out of his "all everything" transceiver. Tyrone tapped away at 40 meter CW while Montel and Jamal jabbered on SSB on 10 and 20 meters respectively.

At dusk, Jon saw another aged Toyota pick up truck full of barrels and pipes drive out of the woods and then move slowly towards the Field Day site. The truck stopped near Jamal's operating position and a male passenger got out and walked over to him.

Jon observed them converse for two or three minutes before Jamal shook hands with the male passenger before the man returned to the truck and drove back on to the road and away from the site.

“What was that all about?” Jon asked, biting into a piece of watermelon.

“Hey, that guy spoke Esperanto!” Jamal exclaimed. “I got to practice my Esperanto with him! He said something about delivering supplies for a field operation so I thought he meant ‘Field Day.’ I told him to go farther down the road as that is where I had seen the other truck go earlier today. Shoot, I forgot to ask what his call-sign was...anyway, I haven’t heard any nearby QRM from them or anyone else, though.”

Jon shrugged his shoulders. “It’s late...you guys can keep going at it. I am going to get some sleep now and then try 75 meter ‘phone early tomorrow morning.” Jon took a last bite of watermelon and tossed the rind in the woods. He crawled into his tent and went to sleep satisfied that Field Day was going so well for his group, since there had been no attacks from bee swarms or any invasions by poisonous reptiles or other such fauna-induced mayhem. Except for the humming generator, the steady rhythm of CW and the squawking of single sideband, all was quiet in Bluff State Park.

Jon awoke at dawn to a cacophony of what sounded like a hovering helicopter, men screaming and the sound of crashing metal. He looked outside his tent as dust and leaves swirled about while a bright spotlight from above swept repeatedly over the Field Day site. A ferocious wind gust tipped over the portable radio tower and sent it crashing to the ground, the moxon antenna’s elements wiggling fiercely after impact. In the chaos, Tyrone and Jamal were running around screaming unintelligible verbiage amidst a maelstrom of paper plates and log sheets. Meanwhile, Montel had climbed out of his tent and was stumbling around in a sleepy stupor until he tripped over the fallen tower. A large twin-cab pick-up truck with axles seemingly on stilts had materialized out of the pre-dawn dust storm and a half dozen armed men jumped out and quickly rounded up the other ham operators.

“Down on the ground! Down on the ground!!” the men bellowed, aiming their carbines at the four shuddering ham radio operators, who were now having topsoil for breakfast.

A man screamed in Tyrone’s face, “Brotha, are you on parole or probation?”

“No, I’m on forty meter CW !” Tyrone screamed back.

“Officers! Officers!! I can explain all this!” Jon cried as he was handcuffed. “This is amateur radio Field Day! The Park Service told us we didn’t need a permit to be here!”

Another camouflage-clad man came running up to the group and said in a low voice, “Sir, all they have is some coolers full of beer bottles and cans of Tab cola and some food...along with all this radio gear like they are the Army Signal Corps or something. Heck, some of it looks better than the stuff the feds gave us to use.”

The team leader scowled and looked at the four handcuffed men lying on the ground. These guys sure don’t look like criminals, he thought, and other than the radios, they didn’t have anything out of the ordinary. He put his rifle down at his side and spoke. “Guys, it looks like we have made a terrible mistake here. I’m going to have my men uncuff you but please just stay here a while until I hear from the other arrest teams.”

Jon heard the rattling of handcuff keys and soon felt the metal being pulled off of his wrists. He and the other hams then stood up.

“So what do the letters C A M P on your uniforms stand for?” Jon asked, as he dusted himself off.

“Campaign Against Mushroom Planting,” the man replied, pulling open his uniform to reveal a t-shirt which depicted a mushroom with a red circle and diagonal line through it. “We had intelligence that an Esperanto-speaking organization had set up an illegal mushroom growing field in this portion of Bluff State Park. We tracked them to about a half mile southwest of here off of the main trail road you guys are on. They were stealing water from a county water district pipe to irrigate their fields. We arrested about 10 people and now have to clean up the mess they have left behind. These illegal growers also use banned pesticides and fertilizers to grow the mushrooms. The Park Service is up in arms over the environmental damage they cause. Anyway, when the helicopter flew over your radio operation early this morning, we became concerned you guys were part of the criminal organization so my men and I were sent here to investigate.

“We thought something was out of place since all the gear you had set up was totally out of character from the other campsites we saw around the park. On behalf of CAMP, I sincerely apologize for scaring the bat guano out of you guys this morning and making your antennas fall over. I hope you’ll understand.”

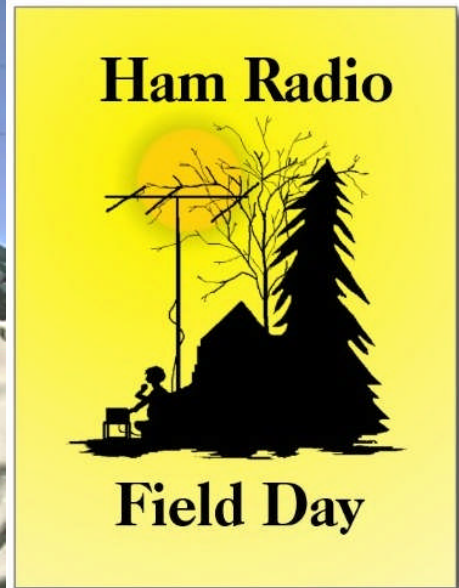
The man pulled a business card out of his pocket and wrote something on the back.

“Here’s my card. I wrote my supervisor’s name and number on the back. If you have any questions or want to talk to someone about what happened this morning, please call any of these phone numbers.”

“Thanks,” said Jon. “So will it be okay for us to stay here for a few more hours? Our radio operation is national in scope and doesn’t end until early afternoon.”

“Sure,” the man replied. “We are sorry that your antennas got blown around and we can help you set them back up. In fact, why don’t you show us how your radios work? I am sure my young agents would like to know there’s other communications gear out there besides their dear smart phones.” The man waved his hand at the other agents.

“We’d be honored to demonstrate our radio operating skills to CAMP,” Jon beamed, “and now we can earn extra points since you guys are a ‘served agency’ who visited our Field Day site!”



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- Digital voice recorder
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**IC-7600** All Mode Transceiver

- 100W HF/6M Transceiver, gen cov. receiver • Dual DSP 32 bit • Three roofing filters- 3, 6, 15kHz • 5.8 in WQVGA TFT display • Hi-res real time spectrum scope

**IC-V8000** 2M Mobile Transceiver

- 75 watts • Dynamic Memory Scan (DMS) mode • Free software download • GPS A mode for easy D-PRS operation • One touch reply button (DV mode)
- Weather alert • Weather channel scan • 200 alphanumeric memories

Analog + Digital
Dual Bander
D-STAR

ID-880H

- D-STAR DV mode operation • DR (D-STAR repeater) mode • Free software download • GPS A mode for easy D-PRS operation • One touch reply button (DV mode)
- Wideband receiver

**YAESU**
The radio**FTDX-3000** 100W HF + 6M Transceiver

- 100 Watt HF/6 Meters • Large and wide color LCD display • High Speed Spectrum Scope built-in • 32 bit high speed DSP / Down Conversion 1st IF

**FT-7900R** 2M/440 Mobile

- 50W 2M, 45W on 440MHz • Weather Alert • 1000+ Memories • WIRES capability • Wideband receiver (cell blocked)

FT-60R 2M/440 5W HT

- Wide receiver coverage • AM air band receive • 1000 memory channels w/al-pha labels • Huge LCD display • Rugged die-cast, water resistant case • NOAA severe weather alert with alert scan

**FT-450D** 100W HF + 6M Transceiver

- 100W HF/6M • Auto tuner built-in • DSP built-in
- 500 memories • DNR, IF Notch, IF Shift

**FT-857D** Ultra Compact HF/VHF/UHF

- 100w HF/6M, 50W 2M, 20W UHF • DSP included
- 32 color display • 200 mems • Detachable front panel (YSK-857 required)

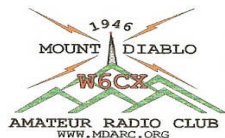
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The Carrier

Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club

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FIRST CLASS



<https://www.facebook.com/mdarc.org>

W6CX Nets

Monday 7:00 pm Washington High School Net 147.060+

Monday 8:00 pm SATERN Net 147.060+

Thursday 7:30 pm MDARC Club Net 147.060+

Thursday 8:00 pm Amateur Television Net 147.060+

Tuesday 7:30 pm Fat City 10 meter USB/CW Net 28.420 MHz

FM 147.060 MHz + / PL 100Hz - EchoLink: W6CX-R/133896, IRLP: 3057
224.780 MHz - / PL 77Hz 441.325 MHz + / PL 100Hz

D-STAR 145.000 offset plus 2.5 MHz

<https://stn3057.ip.irlp.net/status.html>

ATV Inputs: 1289.25 MHz AM; 1277.000 FM pl 192.8 Output 1241.25 MHz AM

ATV Internet Stream: <http://www.w6cxatv.net/live>

Contra Costa County Emergency Communications Nets

Every Thursday

<http://www.coco-races.org/meetings/nets/>

6:35 pm HF Countywide 3.893 MHz LSB

6:45 pm West County 145.110-- (82.5 PL)

7:00 pm Central County 145.680 Simplex

7:00 pm East County 146.535 Simplex

7:00 pm South County 146.355+ (77.0 PL)

7:20 pm Countywide 145.490-- (107.3 PL)

Concord Auxiliary Radio Emergency Service (CARES)

Wednesday 8:00pm 147.405 Simplex

June 2014 and July 2014 Club Calendar

Friday June 20, 2014

7:30pm MDARC General Meeting
Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette
ARRL FIELD DAY ! Heather Farms Park, Walnut Creek and Mount Diablo State Park

Friday June 27 through Sunday June 29

Monday July 7, 2014

7:00 pm MDARC Board Meeting
Black Bear Restaurant, 700 Bancroft Avenue, Walnut Creek

Saturday July 5, 2014 **

CANCELED MDARC Technical Committee MEETING CANCELED **

Friday July 18, 2014

7:30pm MDARC General Meeting
Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette